

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a file referenced by a file name, the file stored on at least one storage device, the method comprising:

sending, by a client, the file name to a name server;

receiving, at the client and from the name server, a file identifier corresponding to the file name ~~from the name server~~ in response to sending the file name to the name server;

sending, by the client, the file identifier to a location server; ~~the location server~~ separate from the name server;

receiving, at the client and from the location server, file location information identified by the location server and corresponding to the file identifier ~~from the location server~~;

and

accessing, by the client, the file using the location information.

12. (Original) A method for accessing a file as in claim 11 wherein each file is stored as at least one file extent, the file identifier comprising a file handle.

13. (Original) A method for accessing a file as in claim 11 wherein each file is represented in storage as an object and each file identifier is an object identifier.

14. (Original) A method for accessing a file as in claim 11 further comprising accessing file metadata stored in the location server.

15. (Original) A method for accessing a file as in claim 11 further comprising sending the file identifier and a new file name to at least one name server, thereby registering the new name for the file.

16. (Previously Presented) A file system for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage devices, each storage device operative to store at least one copy of at least one file;

at least one location database comprising a map between a file identifier for each file and location information for each copy of the file represented by the file identifier;

at least one name database comprising a map between a file name and the file identifier referenced by the file name, each name database physically separate from the at least one location database; and

at least one client operative to

- (a) request a file identifier corresponding to a requested file name,
- (b) receive the file identifier mapped to the requested file name,
- (c) request location information corresponding to the received file identifier,
- (d) receive location information mapped to the received file identifier, and
- (e) access data using the location information.

17. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein each file is stored as at least one file extent, the file identifier comprising a file handle.

18. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein each file is represented in storage as an object and each file identifier is an object identifier.

19. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein the client is further operative to access file metadata stored in the location database.

20. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein the client is further operative to send the file identifier and a new file name to at least one name database, thereby registering the new name for the file.